Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method for allocating to a device a licence to use digital content, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first block of ciphertext from the device;

decrypting the first block of ciphertext to obtain a second block of ciphertext;

determining whether the second block of ciphertext meets a criterion; and

allocating the licence to the device if the second block of ciphertext meets the criterion.

2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of allocating the licence comprises the steps of:

encrypting the first block of ciphertext to obtain a third block of ciphertext;

obtaining a usage right for the digital content; and

providing the device with the third block of ciphertext and an encrypted version of the usage right.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the step of determining whether the second block of ciphertext meets the criterion comprises the step of determining whether the second block of ciphertext corresponds to a last block of ciphertext received in relation to a request for the licence.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the step of allocating the licence comprises the step of updating the last block of ciphertext such that it corresponds to the first block of ciphertext.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3 [[or 4]], further comprising the steps of:

determining whether there exists a previous block of ciphertext that was received in relation to another request for a licence and which corresponds to the second block of ciphertext; and

issuing the device with a notification that the licence has expired if it is determined that the previous block of ciphertext exists and was obtained prior to the last block of ciphertext being obtained;

wherein the steps of determining whether there exists a previous block, and issuing the device with the notification are carried out upon determining that the second block of ciphertext does not meet the criterion.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein the licence is arranged to expire after a predetermined period of time.

7. (original) A method of requesting a licence to use digital content, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a first block of ciphertext from a system arranged to allocate the licence;

encrypting the first block of ciphertext to obtain a second block of ciphertext; and

providing the second block of ciphertext to the system when requesting the licence.

8. (original) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step of providing the second block of ciphertext to another device for use thereby when requesting the licence.

9. (original) A system for allocating a device with a licence to use digital content, the system comprising processing means arranged to perform the steps of:

receiving a first block of ciphertext from the device;

decrypting the first block of ciphertext to obtain a second block of ciphertext;

determining whether the second block of ciphertext meets a criterion; and

allocating the licence to the device if the second block of ciphertext meets the criterion.

10. (original) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the processing means is arranged to perform the following steps when allocating the licence to the device:

encrypting the first block of ciphertext to obtain a third block of ciphertext;

obtaining a usage right for the digital content; and

providing the device with the third block of ciphertext and an encrypted version of the usage right.

11. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 9[[or 10]], wherein the processing means is arranged to perform the following step when determining whether the second block of ciphertext meets the criterion: determining whether the second block of ciphertext corresponds to a last block of ciphertext received in relation to a request for the licence.

12. (original) The system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the processing means is arranged to perform the step of updating the last block of ciphertext such that it corresponds to the first block of ciphertext when allocating the licence.

13. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 11[[or 12]], wherein the processing means is arranged to perform the following steps:

determining whether there exists a previous block of ciphertext that was received in relation to another request for a licence and which corresponds to the second block of ciphertext; and

issuing the device with a notification that the licence has expired if it is determined that the previous block of ciphertext exists and was obtained prior to the last block of ciphertext being obtained;

wherein the steps of determining whether there exists a previous block, and issuing the device with the notification are carried out upon determining that the second block of ciphertext does not meet the criterion.

14. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 9 to 13~~claim 9, wherein the licence is arranged to expire after a predetermined period of time.

15. (original) A device for requesting a licence to use digital content, the device comprising a processing means arranged to perform the following steps:

obtaining a first block of ciphertext from a system arranged to allocate the licence;

encrypting the first block of ciphertext to obtain a second block of ciphertext; and

providing the second block of ciphertext to the system when requesting the licence.

16. (original) The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the processing means is arranged to perform the step of providing the second block of ciphertext to another device for use thereby when requesting the licence.

17. (currently amended) A computer program comprising at least one instruction for causing a computing device to carry out the method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1.

18. (original) A computer readable medium comprising the computer program claimed in claim 17.